

FORM B - BUILDING

Date (*month / year*): June 2018

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson
community preservation + planning

Organization: Hanson Historical Commission

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form
Number

70-0-54-0

Hanover

HNS.246

Town/City: Hanson

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 544 Maquan Street

Historic Name: Isaac Foster Shoe Shop

Uses: Present: Single-Family

Residential

Original: Shoe Shop/Single-Family

Residential

Date of Construction: ca. 1873

Source: White's History, Plan No.

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder: David O.Howland

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Parged

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard/Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Chain link fence surrounding yard to the south and west of the house and prefabricated gable roofed, wood sided shed to southeast of house

Major Alterations (*with dates*): One-story shed roofed addition to south facade

Condition: Fair

Moved: no ☒ **yes** ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: .73 Acres

Setting: Located in a small residential area of moderately sized, well spread out lots surrounded by ponds and wetlands adjacent to the Hanson/Pembroke town line.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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Maquan Street

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The tall two-and-a-half story structure has an asphalt shingled gable-end roof with a tall corbeled brick chimney near the center of its roof ridge. The large, steep gable-end roof covers a rectangular footprint and has a one-story, shed roofed addition that runs the length of its south façade. The house is wood clapboard sided with wood trim and narrow corner boards. The projecting gable-end roof extends out over the gable-end facades with wide eaves trimmed in wood molding over flat painted soffits. A wide cornice board runs behind the soffits around the outer edges of the pediment, ending in narrow returns on each corner. These returns wrap around the corners of the façade and extend along the eaves of the gable facades as well. The windows are a mix of six-over-one wood replacement windows and one-over-one aluminum or vinyl windows. Nearly all of the windows are also surrounded by synthetic shutters that are attached to the siding on either side of the window frames. The window frames are undecorated wood frames with a narrow projecting sill that is only found on the first floor windows.

The house faces north towards the street and has a single double hung window in the gable-end over three on the second floor. Two double hung windows are located at the center of the first floor with a six-pane awning window in the left corner of the façade and the front door to the right. The front entrance has very little detailing and its wood door is hidden behind a metal storm door. Above the door is a wide board surrounded at the top by a flat, projecting wood board that is supported at each corner by a quarter round wheel of open trim with decorative spokes. The door opens onto a concrete step leading to a narrow concrete walkway to the street.

On the east façade, four double hung windows run along the second floor over three windows on the first floor while the lower half of the southeast corner of the façade remains unusually blank. A bulkhead is located in the northeast corner of the structure in front of the one-story, shed roofed addition to the south. The addition is flush with the east façade of the house and has a wide band of wood trim surrounding the eaves and corner board. A large picture window is located in the left half of the addition's east façade next to a side entrance located behind a Queen Anne style storm door with a wide, oblong window at its center. On the west façade, three windows are visible along the second floor while the windows on the first floor are hidden behind a large evergreen bush surrounding the northwest corner of the house. In the southwest corner of the façade, the south façade addition is again flush with the side façade. In this case, the façade is lined with two large pairs of casement windows.

The house is bordered to the south and west by heavy vegetation and mature trees. Large bushes and trees are also found throughout the site, particularly to the east of the building. An asphalt paved driveway to the east of the property runs to a point level with the south end of the house before turning into a parking area adjacent to the east façade of the addition. A prefabricated, gable-roofed wood shed with a pair of doors on its north façade. The grass lawn to the south and west of the house has been enclosed in tall chain link fencing. A solid wood privacy fence extends from the southeast corner of the addition while the grass lawn to the north and east of the house remains open.

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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

According to White's *History of Hanson*, this house was originally constructed by David O. Howland in 1873 as a shoe shop for Isaac Foster, who lived to the west of the building on Maquan Street. David O. Howland (1811-1895) was born in Pembroke to Allen Howland and Sally Oldham and was married to Mary H. Ford in Pembroke in 1838. From the 1850s through the 1880s, David appears in both state and federal census records as both a carpenter and housewright, and also occasionally as a farmer. Isaac Foster (1814-1894) was born in Pembroke to Seth Foster and Joanna Robinson Foster. Isaac lived with his wife, Susan F. (or Susannah), in the eastern corner of Hanson where he worked as a shoemaker and farmer. The 1830 Smith Plan lists a "S. Foster" as living on the north side of Maquan Street at that time, possibly Isaac's father, Seth Foster (1784-1847). By the 1856 Walling Map, three Fosters are listed as living in the area. "Mrs. Foster" lived on the north side of Maquan Street, while "I. Foster" lived to the southwest and "N. Foster" to the southeast. Isaac Foster clearly owned a home in the area before the construction of the new shop, which was built a year after Isaac and Susan's son, Isaac N. Foster, had married and constructed his own house on a separate parcel to the east of the new shoe store. By the 1879 Walker Atlas, Isaac's younger son, Hannibal Foster, purchased the house to the east from Isaac N. and is listed at that house, while the elder Isaac is still listed in the house to the west. Hannibal (b. 1851) was a farmer and later moved back into the family home with his parents. In 1891, Isaac transferred "my homestead farm" to Hannibal, who does not appear to have ever married.¹

Hannibal owned the shoe shop and dwelling for only a few years, before selling it in 1902 to Albert W. Stevens, who sold it that same year to Susan Rebecca Simpson (1878-1967) and Sybil J. Simpson (b. 1881).² Susan and Sybil were the daughters of Almira J. and George F. Simpson, a shoecutter, who at the time lived next door at 556 Maquan Street in a house also sold by Hannibal Foster. Sarah [married Herbert Scott Hathaway (1878-1928) in Hanson that same year. Herbert is listed as a helper in his father Alonzo's shoeshop in Whitman in the 1900 U.S. Census and presumably worked as a shoemaker in Hanson after his marriage. The 1903 Richards Atlas shows the house as belonging to Mrs. S.H. Hathaway and S.J. Simpson and may have been divided into a two family home at that time. Sybil would go on to marry James J. Miller in Whitman in 1911. In 1913, Susan Simpson Hathaway sold the house to Herbert M. Hunter of Melrose and moved to Brockton, where she continued to work as a shoemaker.³ Herbert only owned the house for a year before selling it to William H. Sullivan of Boston.⁴ White states that the building was the William Sullivan Shoe Shop during his own time, but there is no record of a William H. Sullivan living in Hanson during that period, and the building may have been used primarily as a store and rental unit rather than as a primary residence during his ownership. In 1946, Sullivan sold the house to James A. and Dorothy E. Sinclair.⁵ The Sinclairs lived there until 1951, when they sold it to William G. (1914-1999) and Edith L. Freel.⁶ William was born in South Boston and had married Edith Louise Holmes in Portsmouth, NH, in 1937. The couple remained there for the rest of their married life. Edith finally sold the house in 1992 to Theresa and Susan Gately, who owned it for only five years before selling it to John S. Fulton. Fulton then sold the house to Andrew J. and Charlotte R. Stevens.⁷ The house was sold to Joshua and Karen Lopes in 2008, who sold it to the current owners, Rebecca and Joshua Primmer, in 2013.

¹ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 722, Page 180

² Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 862, Page 390; Book 844, Page 108

³ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1164, Page 332

⁴ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1185, Page 496

⁵ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1922, Page 386

⁶ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 2162, Page 111

⁷ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 10783, Page 238; Book 15766, Page 93

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